



# House of Representatives

## File No. 850

General Assembly

January Session, 2011

**(Reprint of File No. 376)**

Substitute House Bill No. 5368  
As Amended by House Amendment  
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
May 27, 2011

**AN ACT EXTENDING CERTAIN PET SHOP LICENSEE  
REQUIREMENTS TO PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT  
IMPORT ANIMALS FOR ADOPTION.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 22-344 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

3 (a) No person shall maintain a commercial kennel until he has  
4 obtained from the commissioner a license to maintain such kennel  
5 under such regulations as the commissioner provides as to sanitation,  
6 disease and humane treatment of dogs or cats and the protection of the  
7 public safety. Upon written application and the payment of a fee of  
8 two hundred dollars, the commissioner shall issue such license to be  
9 effective until the ensuing December thirty-first provided the  
10 commissioner finds (1) that such regulations have been complied with,  
11 and (2) in the case of each initial application for such license, that the  
12 zoning enforcement official of the municipality wherein such kennel is  
13 to be maintained has certified that the kennel conforms to the  
14 municipal zoning regulations. Such license shall be renewed annually,

15 not later than December thirty-first, in accordance with the provisions  
16 of this section, and may be transferred by the licensee to another  
17 premises upon approval of the commissioner.

18 (b) No person shall maintain a pet shop until he has obtained from  
19 the commissioner a license to maintain such pet shop under such  
20 regulations as the commissioner provides as to sanitation, disease and  
21 humane treatment of animals and the protection of the public safety.  
22 Upon written application and the payment of a fee of two hundred  
23 dollars, the commissioner shall issue such license to be effective until  
24 the ensuing December thirty-first provided the commissioner finds (1)  
25 that such regulations have been complied with, and (2) in the case of  
26 each initial application for such license, that the zoning enforcement  
27 official of the municipality wherein such pet shop is to be maintained  
28 has certified that the pet shop conforms to the municipal zoning  
29 regulations. Such pet shop license may be transferred by the licensee to  
30 another premises upon the approval of the commissioner. The  
31 commissioner, after consultation with the Commissioners of Public  
32 Health and Environmental Protection, shall establish and maintain,  
33 pursuant to regulations adopted in accordance with chapter 54, a list of  
34 animals which are deemed to be injurious to the health and safety of  
35 the public or whose maintenance in captivity is detrimental to the  
36 health and safety of the animal. The sale or offer of sale of any animal  
37 which is on said list is prohibited and any person who violates this  
38 provision shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars.

39 (c) No person shall engage in the business of grooming or  
40 maintaining a grooming facility until such person has obtained from  
41 the commissioner a license to maintain such facility under such  
42 regulations as the commissioner provides as to sanitation, disease and  
43 humane treatment of such animals and the protection of the public  
44 safety. Upon written application and the payment of a fee of one  
45 hundred dollars, the commissioner shall issue such license to be  
46 effective until the ensuing December thirty-first provided the  
47 commissioner finds (1) that such regulations have been complied with,  
48 and (2) in the case of each initial application for such license, that the

49 zoning enforcement official of the municipality wherein such  
50 grooming is to be maintained has certified that the facility conforms to  
51 the municipal zoning regulations. Such license shall be renewed  
52 annually, not later than December thirty-first, in accordance with the  
53 provisions of this section, and may be transferred by the licensee to  
54 other premises upon approval of the commissioner.

55 (d) No person shall maintain a training facility until such person has  
56 obtained from the commissioner a license to maintain such facility  
57 under such regulations as the commissioner provides as to sanitation,  
58 disease and humane treatment of such animals and the protection of  
59 public safety. Upon written application and the payment of a fee of  
60 one hundred dollars, the commissioner shall issue such license to be  
61 effective until the ensuing December thirty-first provided the  
62 commissioner finds (1) that such regulations have been complied with,  
63 and (2) in the case of each initial application for such license, that the  
64 zoning enforcement official of the municipality wherein such training  
65 facility is to be maintained has certified that the facility conforms to the  
66 municipal zoning regulations. Such license shall be renewed annually  
67 upon the terms required for the original license and may be transferred  
68 by the licensee to another premises upon approval of the  
69 commissioner.

70 (e) (1) No animal importer shall import any dog or cat into this state  
71 until such person registers as an animal importer with the  
72 commissioner. Such registration shall be on a form as prescribed by the  
73 commissioner. Such registration shall require the submission of the  
74 following information: (A) The name, mailing address, business  
75 address, telephone number and Internet address of such registrant, (B)  
76 if such registrant is domiciled out-of-state, the name, Connecticut  
77 address and phone number of a Connecticut-based agent for service of  
78 process, and (C) the number of animals brought into the state during  
79 the prior year by such animal importer and the state or country of  
80 origin for each such animal. Such registration shall be accompanied by  
81 payment of a fee of one hundred dollars and shall be valid until the  
82 December thirty-first following such registration. Such registration

83 shall be renewed annually, in accordance with the provisions of this  
84 subsection, provided the commissioner determines that such registrant  
85 complies with any requirements provided by the commissioner as to  
86 the health, safety and humane treatment of animals that is applicable  
87 to animal importers. Such registration shall not be required for any  
88 employee or volunteer of a registered animal importer or other person  
89 who is required to be licensed pursuant to the provisions of this  
90 chapter, provided such employee, volunteer or other person is not  
91 otherwise an animal importer. Any person who violates the provisions  
92 of this subdivision shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars.

93 (2) Any animal importer who intends to offer for sale, adoption or  
94 transfer any dog or cat at a venue or location that is open to the public  
95 or at an outdoor location, including, but not limited to, a parking lot or  
96 shopping center, shall provide notice to the Department of Agriculture  
97 and the municipal zoning enforcement officer of the town where any  
98 such sale, adoption or transfer will occur, not later than ten days prior  
99 to such event. Such notice shall state the date for such sale, adoption or  
100 transfer event, the exact location of such event and the anticipated  
101 number of animals for sale, adoption or transfer at such event. Any  
102 person who fails to provide notice as required pursuant to this  
103 subdivision shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars per  
104 animal that is offered for sale, adoption or transfer at such event.

105 (3) For the purpose of this subsection, "animal importer" means a  
106 person who brings any dog or cat into this state from any other  
107 sovereign entity for the purpose of offering such dog or cat to any  
108 person for sale, adoption or transfer in exchange for any fee, sale,  
109 voluntary contribution, service or any other consideration. "Animal  
110 importer" includes any commercial or nonprofit animal rescue or  
111 adoption, humane relocation or delivery organization that is not  
112 otherwise required to be licensed under the provisions of this chapter.

113 (4) The provisions of this subsection shall not be construed to apply  
114 to any animal importer who offers a dog or cat for sale to a pet shop  
115 that is licensed in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of

116 this section, provided such animal is delivered directly to a pet shop.

117 (5) The Commissioner of Agriculture may inspect any animal  
118 imported by an animal importer or any record required to be kept by  
119 such animal importer, provided such inspection shall not authorize the  
120 entry of the commissioner into the residence of such animal importer.

121 ~~[(e)]~~ (f) The commissioner may, at any time, inspect or cause to be  
122 inspected by the commissioner's agents any such commercial kennel,  
123 pet shop, grooming facility or training facility, and if, (1) in the  
124 commissioner's judgment such kennel, pet shop, grooming facility or  
125 training facility is not being maintained in a sanitary and humane  
126 manner or in a manner that protects the public safety, (2) the  
127 commissioner finds that contagious, infectious or communicable  
128 disease or other unsatisfactory conditions exist, or (3) in the case of a  
129 pet shop, the commissioner finds any violation of the provisions of  
130 section 22a-381d, the commissioner may issue such orders as the  
131 commissioner deems necessary for the correction of such conditions  
132 and may quarantine the premises and animals. If the owner or keeper  
133 of such kennel, pet shop, grooming facility or training facility fails to  
134 comply with the regulations or orders of the commissioner, or fails to  
135 comply with any provision of the statutes or regulations relating to  
136 dogs or other animals, the commissioner may revoke or suspend such  
137 license. Any person aggrieved by any order issued under the  
138 provisions of this section may appeal therefrom in accordance with the  
139 provisions of section 4-183. Any person maintaining any commercial  
140 kennel, pet shop, grooming facility or training facility without having  
141 obtained a license for the same or after any such license has been  
142 revoked or suspended as provided herein shall be fined not more than  
143 two hundred dollars. The provisions of this section shall not apply to  
144 veterinary hospitals, except those boarding or grooming dogs for  
145 nonmedical purposes, and other establishments where all the dogs or  
146 animals were born and raised on the premises where they are kept for  
147 sale.

148 ~~[(f)]~~ (g) The provisions of subsections (a) to (d), inclusive, of this

149 section requiring certification by the zoning enforcement official that  
150 every commercial kennel, pet shop, grooming facility and training  
151 facility conforms to the zoning regulations of the municipality wherein  
152 such kennel, pet shop, grooming facility or training facility is  
153 maintained shall not apply to any person who is licensed under said  
154 subsections and maintained any such kennel, pet shop or grooming  
155 facility prior to October 1, 1977, provided such person does not  
156 relocate such kennel, pet shop, grooming facility or training facility in  
157 a zone in which such kennel, pet shop, grooming facility or training  
158 facility is not a permitted use. In addition, the provisions of said  
159 subsections requiring certification by the zoning enforcement official  
160 that every commercial kennel, pet shop, grooming facility and training  
161 facility conforms to the zoning regulations of the municipality wherein  
162 such kennel, pet shop, grooming facility or training facility is  
163 maintained shall not apply when a zone in which such kennel, pet  
164 shop, grooming facility or training facility is maintained is changed to  
165 a use which does not permit such kennel, pet shop, grooming facility  
166 or training facility in such zone.

167       Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2011*) (a) Any animal importer, as  
168 defined in section 22-344 of the general statutes, as amended by this  
169 act, shall, not later than forty-eight hours after importing any dog or  
170 cat into this state and prior to the sale, adoption or transfer of such dog  
171 or cat to any person, provide for the examination of such dog or cat by  
172 a veterinarian licensed under chapter 384 of the general statutes.  
173 Thereafter, such animal importer shall provide for the examination of  
174 such dog or cat by a veterinarian licensed under chapter 384 of the  
175 general statutes every ninety days until such dog or cat is sold,  
176 adopted or transferred, provided no such dog or cat shall be sold,  
177 adopted or transferred to another person by an animal importer unless  
178 (1) such dog or cat was examined by a veterinarian licensed under  
179 chapter 384 of the general statutes not more than fifteen days prior to  
180 the sale, adoption or transfer of such dog or cat, and (2) such  
181 veterinarian provides such animal importer with a written certificate  
182 stating that such dog or cat is free of any symptoms of any illness,

183 infectious, contagious or communicable disease. Such certificate shall  
184 list the name, address and contact information of such animal  
185 importer. Any animal importer who violates the provisions of this  
186 subsection shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars for each  
187 animal that is the subject of such violation.

188 (b) Each animal importer shall maintain a record of the veterinary  
189 services rendered to each dog or cat imported into this state by such  
190 animal importer. Such record shall be maintained by such animal  
191 importer for a period of three years. Any animal importer who violates  
192 the provisions of this subsection shall be fined five hundred dollars.

193 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 22-354 of the general statutes is  
194 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
195 *October 1, 2011*):

196 (a) Any dog or cat imported into this state shall be accompanied by  
197 a certificate of health issued no earlier than thirty days prior to the date  
198 of importation by a licensed, graduate veterinarian stating that such  
199 dog or cat is free from symptoms of any infectious, contagious or  
200 communicable disease, and that such dog or cat, if three months of age  
201 or older, is currently vaccinated for rabies by a licensed veterinarian. A  
202 copy of such health certificate shall be forwarded promptly to the  
203 commissioner from the livestock sanitary official of the state of origin.  
204 Any dog or cat originating from a rabies quarantine area shall have  
205 permission of the State Veterinarian prior to importation into this state.  
206 No person, firm or corporation shall import or export for the purposes  
207 of sale, adoption or transfer or offering for sale, adoption or transfer  
208 any dog or cat under the age of eight weeks unless such dog or cat is  
209 transported with its dam and no person, firm or corporation shall sell  
210 or offer for adoption or transfer within the state any dog or cat under  
211 the age of eight weeks. Any person, firm or corporation violating the  
212 provisions of this subsection or bringing any dog or cat into this state  
213 from an area under quarantine for rabies shall be fined not more than  
214 [one] five hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days, or  
215 both.

216 Sec. 4. Subsection (b) of section 51-164n of the general statutes is  
217 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
218 *October 1, 2011*):

219 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, any  
220 person who is alleged to have committed (1) a violation under the  
221 provisions of section 1-9, 1-10, 1-11, 4b-13, 7-13, 7-14, 7-35, 7-41, 7-83, 7-  
222 283, 7-325, 7-393, 8-25, 8-27, 9-63, 9-296, 9-305, 9-322, 9-350, 10-193, 10-  
223 197, 10-198, 10-230, 10-251, 10-254, 12-52, 12-170aa, 12-292 or 12-326g,  
224 subdivision (4) of section 12-408, subdivision (3), (5) or (6) of section  
225 12-411, section 12-435c, 12-476a, 12-476b, 12-487, 13a-71, 13a-107, 13a-  
226 113, 13a-114, 13a-115, 13a-117b, 13a-123, 13a-124, 13a-139, 13a-140, 13a-  
227 143b, 13a-247 or 13a-253, subsection (f) of section 13b-42, section 13b-  
228 90, 13b-221, 13b-292, 13b-336, 13b-337, 13b-338, 13b-410a, 13b-410b or  
229 13b-410c, subsection (a), (b) or (c) of section 13b-412, section 13b-414,  
230 subsection (d) of section 14-12, section 14-20a or 14-27a, subsection (e)  
231 of section 14-34a, subsection (d) of section 14-35, section 14-43, 14-49,  
232 14-50a or 14-58, subsection (b) of section 14-66, section 14-66a, 14-66b  
233 or 14-67a, subsection (g) of section 14-80, subsection (f) of section 14-  
234 80h, section 14-97a, 14-100b, 14-103a, 14-106a, 14-106c, 14-146, 14-152,  
235 14-153 or 14-163b, a first violation as specified in subsection (f) of  
236 section 14-164i, section 14-219 as specified in subsection (e) of said  
237 section, subdivision (1) of section 14-223a, section 14-240, 14-249, 14-  
238 250 or 14-253a, subsection (a) of section 14-261a, section 14-262, 14-264,  
239 14-267a, 14-269, 14-270, 14-275a, 14-278 or 14-279, subsection (e) of  
240 section 14-283, section 14-291, 14-293b, 14-296aa, 14-319, 14-320, 14-321,  
241 14-325a, 14-326, 14-330 or 14-332a, subdivision (1), (2) or (3) of section  
242 14-386a, section 15-33, subsection (a) of section 15-115, section 16-256,  
243 16-256e, 16a-15 or 16a-22, subsection (a) or (b) of section 16a-22h,  
244 section 17a-24, 17a-145, 17a-149, 17a-152, 17a-465, 17a-642, 17b-124,  
245 17b-131, 17b-137 or 17b-734, subsection (b) of section 17b-736, section  
246 19a-30, 19a-33, 19a-39 or 19a-87, subsection (b) of section 19a-87a,  
247 section 19a-91, 19a-105, 19a-107, 19a-215, 19a-219, 19a-222, 19a-224,  
248 19a-286, 19a-287, 19a-297, 19a-301, 19a-309, 19a-335, 19a-336, 19a-338,  
249 19a-339, 19a-340, 19a-425, 19a-502, 20-7a, 20-14, 20-158, 20-231, 20-257,



250 20-265 or 20-324e, section 20-341l, 20-597, 20-608, 20-610, 21-30, 21-38,  
251 21-39, 21-43, 21-47, 21-48, 21-63, 21-76a, 21a-21, 21a-25, 21a-26 or 21a-  
252 30, subsection (a) of section 21a-37, section 21a-46, 21a-61, 21a-63 or  
253 21a-77, subsection (b) of section 21a-79, section 21a-85, 21a-154, 21a-  
254 159, 22-13, 22-14, 22-15, 22-16, 22-29, 22-34, 22-35, 22-36, 22-38, 22-39,  
255 22-39a, 22-39b, 22-39c, 22-39d, 22-39e, 22-49, 22-54, 22-61, 22-89, 22-90,  
256 22-98, 22-99, 22-100, 22-111o, 22-279, 22-280a, 22-318a, 22-320h, 22-324a,  
257 22-326 or 22-342, subsection (b), (e) or [(e)] (f) of section 22-344, as  
258 amended by this act, section 22-359, 22-366, 22-391, 22-413, 22-414, 22-  
259 415, 22a-66a or 22a-246, subsection (a) of section 22a-250, subsection (e)  
260 of section 22a-256h, section 22a-381d, 22a-449, 22a-461, 23-37, 23-38, 23-  
261 46 or 23-61b, subsection (a) or (b) of section 23-65, section 25-37, 25-40,  
262 26-19, 26-21, 26-31, 26-40, 26-40a, 26-49, 26-54, 26-59, 26-61, 26-64, 26-79,  
263 26-89, 26-97, 26-107, 26-117, 26-128, 26-131, 26-132, 26-138, 26-141, 26-  
264 207, 26-215, 26-224a, 26-227, 26-230, 26-294, 28-13, 29-6a, 29-109, 29-  
265 143o, 29-143z or 29-156a, subsection (b), (d), (e) or (g) of section 29-  
266 161q, section 29-161y, 29-161z, 29-198, 29-210, 29-243, 29-277,  
267 subsection (c) of section 29-291c, section 29-316, 29-318, 29-381, 30-48a,  
268 30-86a, 31-3, 31-10, 31-11, 31-12, 31-13, 31-14, 31-15, 31-16, 31-18, 31-23,  
269 31-24, 31-25, 31-28, 31-32, 31-36, 31-38, 31-38a, 31-40, 31-44, 31-47, 31-48,  
270 31-51, 31-51k, 31-52, 31-52a or 31-54, subsection (a) or (c) of section 31-  
271 69, section 31-70, 31-74, 31-75, 31-76, 31-76a, 31-89b or 31-134,  
272 subsection (i) of section 31-273, section 31-288, 36a-787, 42-230, 45a-450,  
273 45a-634 or 45a-658, subdivision (13) or (14) of section 46a-54, section  
274 46a-59, 46b-22, 46b-24, 46b-34, 46b-38dd, 46b-38gg, 46b-38kk, 47-34a,  
275 47-47, 49-8a, 49-16 or 53-133, or section 53-212a, 53-249a, 53-252, 53-264,  
276 53-302a, 53-303e, 53-311a, 53-321, 53-322, 53-323, 53-331, 53-344 or 53-  
277 450, or (2) a violation under the provisions of chapter 268, or (3) a  
278 violation of any regulation adopted in accordance with the provisions  
279 of section 12-484, 12-487 or 13b-410, or (4) a violation of any ordinance,  
280 regulation or bylaw of any town, city or borough, except violations of  
281 building codes and the health code, for which the penalty exceeds  
282 ninety dollars but does not exceed two hundred fifty dollars, unless  
283 such town, city or borough has established a payment and hearing  
284 procedure for such violation pursuant to section 7-152c, shall follow

285 the procedures set forth in this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	22-344
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	22-354(a)
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	51-164n(b)

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** See Below

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill requires certain animal importers to register with the Department of Agriculture (DAG) and remit an annual fee of \$100 and establishes a fine of not more than \$500 for any person who violates this provision. The bill also establishes other fines for violations of various requirements which may generate additional revenue to the state. It is estimated that the amount of revenue generated from all of these provisions would be less than \$5,000 annually.

House "A" eliminates the underlying bill and its associated fiscal impact and results in the impacts described above.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing revenue gain identified above would continue into the future subject to (1) the amount of animal importers who register with the state, and (2) the number of people who violate various provisions of the bill.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 5368 (as amended by House "A")\******AN ACT EXTENDING CERTAIN PET SHOP LICENSEE REQUIREMENTS TO PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT IMPORT ANIMALS FOR ADOPTION.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill makes several changes affecting animal importers. Among other things, it requires animal importers to (1) register with the agriculture commissioner; (2) have the imported animals examined by a state-licensed veterinarian; and (3) notify the Department of Agriculture (DOA) and local zoning officials before offering the animals for sale, adoption, or transfer. The bill establishes various fines for violations of its provisions.

\*House Amendment "A" replaces the original file (File 376) with similar provisions relating to animal importers. It adds provisions that (1) require a veterinarian to examine a cat or dog within 48 hours of the animal being imported and within 15 days before the sale, adoption, or transfer of the animal and (2) authorize the agriculture commissioner to inspect imported animals and animal importer's records.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2011

**ANIMAL IMPORTER**

The bill defines "animal importer" as a person who brings any dog or cat into Connecticut from another sovereign entity to offer it for sale, adoption, or transfer or give it to anyone in exchange for a fee, sale, voluntary contribution, service, or other consideration. An animal importer includes a commercial or nonprofit animal rescue or adoption, humane relocation, or delivery organization that is not

required to be licensed under state law. (By law, commercial kennels, pet shops, grooming facilities, and training facilities must be licensed by the agriculture commissioner.)

## **REGISTRATION**

The bill prohibits an animal importer from importing a dog or cat into Connecticut until he or she registers with the agriculture commissioner and pays a \$100 registration fee. The registration must be on a form the commissioner prescribes and include the (1) registrant's name, mailing and business addresses, telephone number, and Internet address and (2) number of animals imported in the prior year and the state or country of their origin. If the registrant is domiciled out-of-state, the registration also must include the name, Connecticut address, and telephone number of a local agent for service of process.

A registration is valid until the following December 31. An importer must renew the registration annually, if the commissioner determines the importer complies with any applicable regulation relating to the health, safety, and humane treatment of animals.

Violators of the registration requirement are subject to a fine of up to \$500.

Registration is not required by an employee or volunteer of a registered animal importer or person holding a commercial kennel, pet shop, grooming facility, or training facility license if the employee, volunteer, or person is not otherwise an animal importer.

## **MISCELLANEOUS REQUIREMENTS**

### ***Event Notification***

The bill requires any animal importer who intends to offer a dog or cat for sale, adoption, or transfer at a public or outdoor location to notify the DOA and the appropriate municipal zoning officer at least 10 days before the event. The notice must include the event date, exact location, and expected number of animals involved. Violators are

subject to a fine of up to \$100 per animal.

***Pet Shop Exception***

The bill's registration and notice provisions do not apply to an animal importer who offers a dog or cat for sale to a licensed pet shop, if the animal is delivered directly to the pet shop.

***Agriculture Commissioner Inspection Authority***

The bill authorizes the agriculture commissioner to inspect an animal importer's imported animals or required records. But this inspection authority does not give the commissioner permission to enter an animal importer's residence.

***Veterinarian Services and Records Required***

The bill requires an animal importer, within 48 hours of importing a cat or dog into Connecticut and before offering it for sale, adoption, or transfer, and every 90 days until the sale, adoption, or transfer is complete, to have a state-licensed veterinarian examine the animal. Each animal must be examined by a state-licensed veterinarian within 15 days before a sale, adoption, or transfer and the veterinarian must provide the animal importer a written health certificate for the animal. An animal importer who violates these provisions is subject to a fine of up to \$500 for each unexamined or uncertified animal.

The importer must maintain records of the veterinarian services for three years after they were rendered. Violators are subject to a \$500 fine.

***Very Young Animals***

By law, a person, firm, or corporation may not import or export for sale a dog or cat under eight weeks old without its mother. It also prohibits the sale of a dog or cat that is under eight weeks old. Under current law, violators are subject to a fine of up to \$100, imprisonment for up to 30 days, or both.

The bill extends the prohibitions to the adoption or transfer of dogs

or cats under eight weeks old. It increases the maximum fine for sales from \$100 to \$500 and applies the fine and imprisonment to adoptions and transfers. The maximum term of imprisonment remains the same.

### ***Fine for Lack of Health Certificate***

By law, a dog or cat imported into the state must be accompanied by a health certificate issued within 30 days before the importation by a licensed graduate veterinarian. The certificate must state that the animal is not diseased and, if over three months old, is currently vaccinated for rabies. A dog or cat from a rabies quarantine area must have the state veterinarian's permission before importation. Under current law, violators are subject to a fine of up to \$100, imprisonment for up to 30 days, or both. The bill increases the fine to up to \$500.

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***Related Law***

By law, a person obtaining a dog or cat for resale must hold a pet shop license. Violators are subject to a fine of up to \$1,000, imprisonment for up to 30 days, or both (CGS § 22-344e).

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 27 Nay 0 (03/18/2011)

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 52 Nay 0 (05/10/2011)